

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 12 - August 15, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #181 - *“Come, Oh, Come, Life-giving Spirit”*

**Come, oh, come, life-giving Spirit,
God from all eternity!
May your power never fail us;
Dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light
Banish all the gloom of night.**

**Show us, Lord, the path of blessing;
When we trespass on our way,
Cast, O Lord, our sins behind you
And be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall;
Work repentance when we fall.**

**With our spirit, Lord, bear witness
That we are the saints of God
Who rely upon him solely
When we're chastened by the rod;
For we know, as children should,
That the cross is for our good.**

**Prompt us, Lord, to come before him
With a childlike heart to pray;
Sigh for us, O Holy Spirit,
When we know not what to say.
Then our prayer is not in vain,
And our faith new strength shall gain.**

**Grant our hearts in fullest measure
Wisdom, counsel, purity,
That we always strive to please you,
Working for you willingly.
Let the gospel spread and grow,
Bringing Satan's overthrow.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:3-8

Elijah was afraid, and he ran for his life. He went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. There he sat down under a broom tree, where he prayed that he would die. He said, "I've had enough, Lord. Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." Then he lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree. Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." Then he looked around, and near his head there was a loaf of bread baking on coals and a jar of water, so he ate and drank, and then he lay down again. Then the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, because the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Then, with the strength gained from that food, he walked for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God. (EHV)

Psalm 34

Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

**Taste and see that the 'LORD is good;
Blessed are they who take ref'uge in him.**

**The eyes of the LORD are on the 'righteous
And his ears are attentive 'to their cry.**

**The angel of the LORD encamps around those who 'fear him,
And he de'livers them.**

Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

**The righteous cry out, and the LORD 'hears them;
He delivers them from all their 'troubles.**

**The LORD is close to the broken'hearted
And saves those who are crushed in 'spirit.**

**The LORD redeems his 'servants;
No one who takes refuge in him will 'be condemned.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us. Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 6:41-51

So the Jews started grumbling about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They asked, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? So how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the Last Day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. I am not saying that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He is the one who has seen the Father. Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me has eternal life. “I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #352 - “Lord, Enthroned in Heav’nly Splendor”

**Lord, enthroned in heav’nly splendor,
Mighty Firstborn from the dead,
You alone, our strong Defender,
You lift up your people’s head.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesus, true and living Bread!
Jesus, true and living Bread!

Though the lowliest form once veiled you
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there your angels hail you,
Branch and Flow'r of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
We in worship join with them;
We in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, your off'ring, finished
Once for all when you were slain,
In its fullness undiminished,
Shall forevermore remain,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain;
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.

Life-imparting heav'nly Manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heav'n and earth with loud hosanna
Worship you, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

The Sermon: John 6:41-51
"Jesus Is The Bread Of Life"

Last week we had the opportunity in the sermon to look at **manna** - that special food which God sent from heaven, to sustain His people during their 40 year journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. It was a **perfect** food for them, but as good as it was at sustaining their bodies day after day, eventually their forefathers still **died**. Eating **manna** couldn't keep **death** away from them forever. But in our text for today Jesus said, "*I am the bread of life*" - and He claimed that when a man eats the bread **He** brings - he **doesn't** die. Can something like that actually be **real**? Is there really something which we can **consume** which

will keep us from **dying**? That's what we're going to find out this morning as we hear in our text that **Jesus Is The Bread Of Life**.

We know that at some point in time we're all going to **die**. Physical death is a reality for **all people** because as the Bible tells us, "*the wages of **sin is death**,*" and we are all **sinners**. But Jesus isn't talking about **physical** death here. He's talking about **spiritual** death - the death that entered into the world when the first man, **Adam**, chose to disobey God's command regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Adam **sinned**, He **lost** the **image** of God, and became **ungodly** - guilty, and condemned to live **apart** from God. He died **spiritually**. And we know that everyone who is **descended** from Adam - which includes **everyone** in the **world** - is born in **his** image - filled with **sin**, and **guilt** - condemned to be **enemies** of God. We are born into this world **dead** in our sins, and under God's **wrath**. And if that spiritual death is not **overcome**, it ultimately leads to **eternal** death - the wretched state of being separated **forever** from God in the outer **darkness** and eternal **agony** of **hell**.

That's why our text for **today** is so **important**. Jesus points to **Himself** and says, "***This** is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and **not die**. I am the **living** bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats **this** bread, he will **live forever**.*" How can Jesus make a **promise** like that? He can **do** it, because **Jesus Is The Bread of Life**. Let's take a few moments to check out His "**ingredients**."

The **first** ingredient which makes **Jesus The Bread Of Life** is that He "*comes down from heaven.*" Jesus is **heavenly** - He is **God's Son** from all eternity - He is **true God** with all the **power**, and **wisdom**, and **authority** of God. The **second** ingredient is that Jesus "*came down from heaven.*" Jesus was **conceived** and **born** into this world - He became **fully human** - He is a **true man** who was required to live **under the Law**, just like every **other** human being. And the **third** ingredient is what Jesus, the God-man, came to **do**. He said, "*The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my **flesh**.*" Jesus would **live** a **sinless life** in this world, and then He would **give** His sinless life as a **perfect sacrifice** on the cross - a sacrifice which would bring **life** to the **world**.

Jesus would **do for us** what we **couldn't do** for ourselves. As **sinners**, we brought ourselves **punishment** - the punishment of facing God's **hatred** of sin, and earning for ourselves eternal **agony** in hell. But Jesus **took our place**, and the Prophet **Isaiah** tells us that when He was **nailed** to the cross, "*It was because of **our rebellion** that he was **pierced**. He was crushed for the guilt **our sins** deserved.*

*The **punishment** that brought us **peace** was upon **him**, and by **his** wounds we are **healed**.*” Jesus laid down **His life** in order to provide salvation for **all people**. His death was **payment-in-full** for the sins of the world. His sacrifice **cancelled** our guilt and condemnation, and **gave us eternal life** with God. Jesus gave us a “**life sentence**” - a life with all our sins **forgiven** - a life with a path paved with His **perfection** all the way to our heavenly home. This was the **recipe for Jesus - The Bread Of Life**.

Yes, **Jesus Is The Bread Of Life**, and Jesus Himself **invites us** to **partake** of that precious bread. He said, *“This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that **anyone may eat it and not die**. **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven. **If anyone eats this bread**, he will live forever.”* Jesus invites **everyone** to **eat** the Bread of Life - to **consume Him** - to receive our **life** from Him - to **believe** in **Him** and His **promise**, *“If anyone eats **this bread**, he will **live forever**.”* Believing in **Jesus** is the **only way** for us to receive eternal life in heaven.

Americans are frequently referred to as **consumers**. And it's **true**. We **consume** lots of **food** and **drinks** - lots of **oil** and **gas** - lots of **information** and **data** - lots of **fun** and **entertainment**. But what about **Jesus**? Do we consume **Him** as well? Is **The Bread Of Life** something that we **consume** in huge quantities, or do we just pick at the **edges**? Back in Bible times many people didn't want **anything** to do with Jesus. They were preoccupied with **earthly** bread - with **money** - with **immediate** pleasures. They weren't **interested** in **The Bread Of Life** which **Jesus** offered. And it's not much different **today**. People still pursue the pleasures of **mansions**, and **luxury** cars and trucks. They still spend a great deal of their **time** consuming **fun** and **entertainment**. Amazon has made us even **bigger** consumers. Now there are literally **millions** of products which we can **search** for, and which we can bring into our lives right from the comfort of our own **homes**. But how many people are searching for the **Bread Of Life**? How many are searching for the **living** bread which feeds our **souls**? Jesus Himself asks the question, *“What will it benefit a person if he gains the **whole world**, but forfeits his **soul**? Or what can a person **give in exchange** for his soul?”*

Now, while **bread** is meant to be **eaten**, everybody knows that we **don't** eat the **bag** that it comes **wrapped** in. That's just there to **deliver** the bread. I think it's important to remember that there is **wrapping** around **Jesus** too. No, I'm not talking about the **swaddling cloths** which wrapped Him at the time of His **birth**. But rather, Jesus comes to us wrapped in beautiful church **buildings** and stained glass **windows** - in Christian **artwork** and **jewelry** - as well as in age-old **traditions** and modern-day **procedures**. But it's **Jesus Himself** who truly deserves

our **focus**. **Jesus Is The Bread Of Life**, He's the one who must be **consumed** by our **thoughts, words, and actions**. He's the one in whom we must put our **trust**, because Jesus said, *"If anyone eats **this bread**, he will **live forever**."* Jesus invites us to put our trust in **Him**; and to put our hope of **salvation** in His **flesh**, which was given on the **cross** for the life of the world.

As odd as this may sound, it's true that when we **eat** something it becomes **ours** - ours in the most **personal** way possible, as it **nourishes** us, and **sustains** our lives. In a very similar way it's **also** true, that when we believe in **Jesus** we have **Him** in a very personal way. We have His perfect **life**, and everything that He has **done** for us, including providing us with the gift of **eternal life**. But Jesus makes it even **more personal** for us. In the Lord's Supper - **in, with, and under** the bread and wine - He **feeds** us with His **body and blood** - the very **same** body which hung on the **cross**, and the very **same** blood which He **shed** for us there. **Jesus Himself** becomes **part** of us - **nourishing** us, and **sustaining** our lives. That precious **gift** makes us **doubly sure** of our salvation, Jesus **tells** us that we are saved in His **Word**, and then He **reconfirms** that message by giving us His **body and blood**.

Jesus Is The Bread Of Life - bread which we **need** for life in **this** world, as well as for life in the world to **come**. Fill up your shopping cart with **Jesus**. Take Him **home** with you. **Believe** in Him, and in everything He **tells** us in His **Word**. And **rejoice** in His promise that we will live with Him in heaven **forever**. Amen.

Prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered here as members of Your Church to join our hearts in confessing our **faith** in You. We believe that You are the **Christ**, the Son of the living God. We believe also that You became a **man**, so that as our Substitute You might **suffer, bleed, and die** for our sins.

As we look toward the **future**, we ask that You would make us steadfast and true in **confessing** our faith to others. Let not the **unbelief** and **ridicule** with which many people respond to Your name, **discourage** us from **testifying** of our faith, or declaring our **love** for You. May we never be **ashamed** of You, or in any way **deny** You.

Lord, looking back on the **past**, we must admit that we have at times **failed** in our mission as Your witnesses. Our many sins have in their own way formed **barriers** to confessing Your name to others. Moments of **doubt** have robbed our testimony of vitality and conviction. There have been times when our lack of **knowledge** concerning Your will and Your Word, has been a **hindrance** to our

testifying to the truth. There have been occasions when the Holy Spirit has thrown the door wide **open** for us, giving us splendid **opportunities** to confess You to others, but we remained **silent**. There were times we were **timid** when we should have been **bold**, and times we were filled with **fear** when we should have been filled with **confidence**.

Dear Savior, do not hold these human failures against us, but rather, **forgive** our sins. And through Your Holy Spirit, supply whatever we need to make us Your **bold, efficient, and faithful** witnesses to the world. Give us the **desire** and the **opportunity** to study Your Word frequently and faithfully. Enlarge our **understanding** of that Word, deepen our **appreciation** for the salvation which You have earned for us, and increase our **zeal** to confess Your saving name to the world. Let Your **glory**, which shines in all Your words and works, **light up** our hearts - and **shine** through us to others.

Daily **increase** the number of those who come to know You as their Savior, and help them to **become** and **remain** faithful witnesses. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn #454 - "I Gave My Life for Thee"

**I gave my life for thee;
My precious blood I shed
That thou might'st ransomed be
And quickened from the dead.
I gave my life for thee;
Come, give thyself to me!**

**My Father's home of light,
My rainbow-circled throne,
I left for earthly night,
For wand'rings sad and lone.
I left it all for thee;
Come now and follow me!**

**I spent long years for thee
In weariness and woe
That an eternity
Of joy thou mightest know.
I spent long years for thee;
Come, spend thy years for me.**

**I suffered much for thee,
More than my tongue may tell,
Of bitt'rest agony,
To rescue thee from hell.
I suffered much for thee;
Come, bear thy cross with me.**

**And I have brought to thee
Down from my home above
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and my love.
Great gifts I brought for thee;
Come, bring thy gifts to me.**

**Oh, let thy life be spent,
Thy years for me be giv'n,
As I for thee was sent
To bear thee home to heav'n.
I gave my life for thee;
Come, give thy life to me.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn #765 - "Day by Day"

**Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.**

**Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow;
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;
Till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oft, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**